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Recommended Citation

"GLRO Spring 1990" (1990). *Great Lakes Regional Office*. 8.
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REPORT

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES • SPRING 1990

Cargo of Missouri Puppies Confiscated

A bizarre string of events delayed a van full of puppies in Dayton, Ohio, long enough to allow the Humane Society of Greater Dayton and the Montgomery County Dog Warden's office time to step in to the rescue. What could have been a normal day of routine pet-shop puppy deliveries turned out to be the beginning of a very important case illustrating the hidden cruelties of the pet industry.

The passenger van left central Missouri carrying more than 86 eight-week-old puppies to be delivered to pet shops in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois. Upon entering Dayton, the van had mechanical trouble and was taken to an automobile dealership for repairs. An alert and concerned employee noticed that the puppies were in very crowded and filthy conditions and called the Humane Society of Greater

Dayton to report the problem.

The Humane Society of Greater Dayton enlisted the help of the Montgomery County Dog Warden's office. Before either organization was ready to physically intervene, the van had been repaired and had delivered 15 puppies to the local Docktor Pet Center. But as luck would have it, the van broke down again and was returned to the dealership for more work. The driver then reportedly fell from the van while it was up on the hoist, broke his hip, and was taken to the hospital.

In the meantime, both agencies contacted the GLRO. Program Coordinator Robin Weirauch offered advice on the necessary procedures for rescue, including evidence collection in order to bring criminal charges against the drivers.

The owner of the puppies, a Missouri res-
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HSUS Promotes Sustainable Agriculture

Over the past six months, the GLRO has been addressing the issue of organic farming. At first glance, the connection between organic farming and animal protection may not seem clear. But they are interrelated on many levels.

Agriculture is this nation's largest industry, and farm animals are a predominant factor in agribusiness. As long as society chooses to consume animals, The Humane Society of the United States is committed to making the conditions under which they are raised as humane as possible.

The GLRO has found farmers in the region who are also committed to the humane treatment of animals, to the use of less intensive systems of rearing livestock and poultry, and to farming without chemicals. These farmers have respect for the land and the crops they produce, for the health of the consumer, for the animals they raise, and for the wildlife that is part of the total ecosystem.

Often these choices are neither convenient
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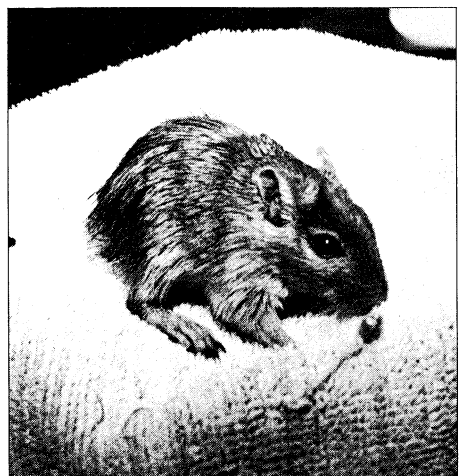
These two dachshund siblings, along with the 80 surviving eight-week-old puppies confiscated, were adopted into carefully screened homes.

Hartz Mountain Pets Found in Dumpster

Two gerbils, two guinea pigs, and a parakeet were found discarded in a garbage dumpster in Fort Wayne, Ind., and a representative of the Hartz Mountain Corporation has been charged with violating Indiana anticruelty law. This law states that any one who abandons or neglects an animal commits cruelty to an animal, a Class B misdemeanor that carries a possible penalty of \$1,000 fine and imprisonment for not more than 180 days.

These five animals were returned to the Hartz Mountain representative by one store on his route because they were ill and/or injured. They were found alive inside five Hartz Mountain boxes later that day by a man who was looking for aluminum cans in a dumpster adjacent to the store that was the next stop on the Hartz Mountain route. The animals were taken to a veterinarian, who in turn contacted the Fort Wayne Department of Animal Control (FWAC), and the animals were identified as those that were returned to the Hartz Mountain representative.

One guinea pig died, but the rest of the animals are doing fine after receiving veterinary care, and they are being placed in foster homes. The GLRO provided technical assistance to FWAC and will be monitoring the case due to the importance of public education regarding animal abuses in the pet industry. ■



This gerbil survived being tossed in the trash, allegedly by a Hartz Mt. salesman.



This Pomeranian puppy was one of six that had to be euthanatized due to severe illnesses ranging from parvovirus to distemper. Symptoms appeared within days of their rescue.

Puppies

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ident, was contacted and persuaded to release the puppies into the custody of the Humane Society of Greater Dayton. Within two days, many of the puppies began to exhibit health problems such as infection with parvovirus, distemper, and coccidia. Six were euthanatized after veterinarians tried to save their lives.

Weirauch traveled to Dayton at the request of the Humane Society of Greater Dayton a few days after the puppies arrived at the shelter. She spent the next two days meeting with the investigator from the sheriff's department, the prosecuting attorney, investigators from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and an AKC representative. Weirauch also participated in three television interviews discussing the pet industry as a whole and how the American consumer can help put an end to this type of exploitation of domestic animals.

The puppies originated from several breeders in Missouri. Weirauch obtained information from the Missouri Department of Agriculture indicating that when the van left central Missouri, it carried as many as 109 eight-week-old dogs of different breeds. Four to seven puppies were housed in each of the 15 cages in the van, 11 of which measured only 18" x 18" x 9" high. Ohio law prohibits the transport of animals in a

"cruel or inhumane manner," and this was the foundation of the criminal charges brought against the drivers of the van, Harold and Dorothy Latimer of Newark, Mo. Although there were additional violations regarding the age of the puppies and the lack of complete health records, these minor misdemeanors were dropped shortly before the trial began.

With the testimony of the Humane Society of Greater Dayton and the two deputy wardens from the Montgomery County Dog Warden's office who were first at the scene, the prosecutor successfully showed that the puppies were indeed inhumanely transported, and the court ordered the puppies into the custody of the Humane Society of Greater Dayton for immediate adoption. The sentencing of the Latimers is still pending.

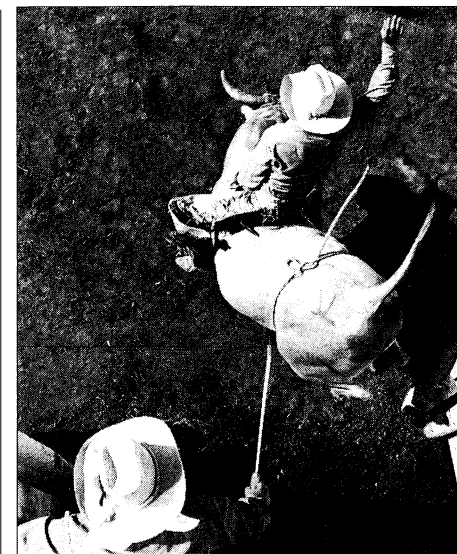
Commenting on the case, Weirauch stated, "The Humane Society of Greater Dayton and the Montgomery County Dog Warden's Office should be proud of the results that their hard efforts produced. Caring for over 80 young and vulnerable puppies is no easy task, and neither is proving in court the cruel transportation of animals." She continued, "This case could give others (including prosecutors) the incentive to take action against similar activities within the pet industry. The defense attorney called this case 'a lot to do about nothing... simply dogs in cages.' Fortunately, the judge did not agree." ■

AROUND THE REGION

■ **INDIANA**—The former Indiana Federation of Humane Societies has disbanded, and the Animal Welfare Network of Indiana has recently been formed to fill the gap to present a strong, united voice for humane societies and animal-welfare groups. The address is c/o Indianapolis Humane Society, 7929 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

■ **OHIO**—The World Classic Championship Rodeo rolled into Toledo, Ohio, for a weekend of performances on January 4th. Within a few days after leaving town, the arena director was cited by the Toledo Prosecuting Attorney's Office for aiding and abetting in the illegal use of an electric prod on the rodeo stock, as witnessed by staff of the Toledo Humane Society. Ohio Revised Code prohibits the use of such devices. A pretrial was held, and the trial date has now been set for June 14.

Brown County commissioners were considering releasing certain dogs from the county animal shelter to Kiser Lake Kennels, an Ohio dog dealer, which would then sell the animals for research. Judy Roberts, a Brown County resident, learned of this proposal and contacted the GLRO for help. The commissioners were informed that Ohio law prohibits the release of pound animals to anyone *other than* an "Ohio institution that is certified by the Ohio Public Health Council as being engaged in teaching or research." In the end, the decision was turned over to the county prosecutor's office, which in turn contacted the GLRO for



Prods are used to encourage livestock to bolt out of the rodeo chute like wild, untamed animals.

more information. Based on the prosecutor's recommendation, the proposal to release dogs to the kennel was rejected.

■ **WEST VIRGINIA**—The Humane Society of Harrison County hosted a one-day seminar on humane society/animal control relations and euthanasia; it was well attended by representatives of six West Virginia counties. The Parkersburg Humane Society also hosted a one-day seminar on improving public relations. Several area counties were represented. The GLRO provided instruction for both seminars. ■



Dogs from the Brown County animal shelter will not be released to a dog dealer for later sale for research because a concerned citizen contacted the GLRO for help.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

by Sandy Rowland

When we think about all the animals that need protection, and all the causes of animal suffering, we can feel overwhelmed.

It may seem that the problems are just too big and too many to solve and that we have no control over the solution. But take heart. The animal-protection movement has made significant progress.

Animal-related issues now occupy a higher profile in the public consciousness. And, although there's a tremendous amount of work to be done, each of us, every day, can make choices in our own lives that really can advance our progress and help animals.

For example, in this newsletter you'll read about humane sustainable agriculture. By trying to find products raised by nonintensive livestock systems and organic farmers, you can encourage the humane treatment of farm animals and help save the planet. You can eat less meat and stop eating veal.

You can also contribute directly to solving the pet-overpopulation problem by having your pet spayed or neutered.

And there are many other choices you can make that help animals, choices that take a minimum of effort but can add up to a powerful force for change:

■ Don't buy tuna that is not labeled "dolphin safe"—thousands of dolphins die in the nets of tuna-fishing boats, but several companies are responding to public demand for fish that is not caught in ways harmful to dolphins.

■ Buy cruelty-free cosmetics, personal-care products, and household cleaners.

■ Buy pet-care products from pet shops that don't sell puppies and kittens—don't support retailers who contribute to pet overpopulation and puppy mills.

■ Don't buy dogs and cats from pet stores—adopt from a shelter. And don't buy exotic pets.

■ Don't buy fur, ivory, or exotic animal products.

■ Don't patronize entertainment events that exploit or abuse animals.

The HSUS will be talking more about such choices for change in the coming year. Our Caring Consumer campaign will be featured in a special section of *New Age Journal's* July/August issue.

Remember, even a small change is better than no change at all. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

■ **October 25-27**—The 1990 Humane Society of the United States Annual Conference is in the final planning stages, but it's not too early to mark the date on your calendar and start making plans to join us in San Francisco, California.

This year's conference carries the theme

"Animals...It's Their World Too." It will be held at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway in San Francisco. A preconference symposium will be held on October 24, updating animal-population control. Watch for registration information and program details in the summer issue of the *HSUS News*. ■

Agriculture

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nor cheap. In fact, only about 1 percent of all farmers nationally are willing to make such hard, but responsible, choices.

The HSUS recognizes that humane sustainable agriculture joins together the necessities of productivity and economic efficiency with the ideals of empathic husbandry, careful stewardship of natural resources, and a rejection of dependence on antibiotics, pesticides, and inappropriate biotechnologies. For humane sustainable agriculture to be a viable alternative for increasing numbers of farmers, there must be consumer support for the farmers that practice it and the products they produce. That's where The HSUS's Humane Sustainable Agriculture program comes in, educating farmers about sustainable farming practices and consumers about responsible shopping.

The GLRO encourages all of our members to find and choose agriculture products

that come from humane sustainable systems. This can mean buying from local fruit and vegetable markets, looking for sources of humanely raised meat and poultry, and asking your grocer to stock such products.

In an effort to gather information on these issues, Great Lakes Regional Director Sandy Rowland has attended several workshops and seminars, including "A Harvest for the Future: The Benefits of Sustainable Agriculture for Farmers, Consumers, and Conservationists" and the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association's annual conference in Columbus, Ohio. Rowland is also part of a Toledo, Ohio, group working to establish an organic food co-op.

Our goal is to encourage farmers to engage in humane sustainable agriculture and meet the guidelines provided by The HSUS and to encourage our members to support these farmers with their purchases. We welcome information from our members on farmers who practice humane sustainable agriculture and on sources from which to buy these products. ■

REWARD, REWARD, REWARD

The HSUS offers the following rewards of

- up to \$2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any wholesale dealer in dogs and cats who knowingly buys or otherwise procures any stolen animal;
- up to \$2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who organizes dogfights, fights dogs, promotes dogfighting, or officiates at dogfights;
- up to \$2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who organizes cockfights, fights cocks, promotes cockfighting, or officiates at cockfights;
- up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who willfully poisons or attempts to poison a dog or cat.

If you have any information regarding any of these atrocities, please feel free to call the GLRO in complete confidence at (419) 352-5141 between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

"Be a P.A.L." Campaign Enters 1990

As the HSUS "Be a P.A.L.—Prevent A Litter" campaign marks its third year, the U.S. Congress officially recognized April 1990 as "National Prevent A Litter Month." In addition, the Michigan State House and Senate both passed resolutions supporting Congressional recognition and commemorating the "Prevent A Litter Month" in Michigan.

State Rep. Jerry C. Bartnik notified Sandy Rowland of the resolutions, saying, "We hope that by passing these resolutions, we have contributed to the efforts of The Humane Society to educate the public about the problems caused by pet overpopulation and the ways in which responsible pet owners can help curb their detrimental effects—namely by spaying and neutering their pets so that unwanted pet pregnancies do not occur."

Such official recognition is just one more step in extending the "Prevent A Litter" message into every community. This year, The HSUS also focused its message on the theme of individual responsibility and how each of us can help solve the problem by simply preventing a litter and neutering our pets.

Promotional items and campaign kits are available from The HSUS. Write for more information. ■

The Regional Report is a publication of

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The office is open 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday through Friday, and is closed on federal holidays.

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